

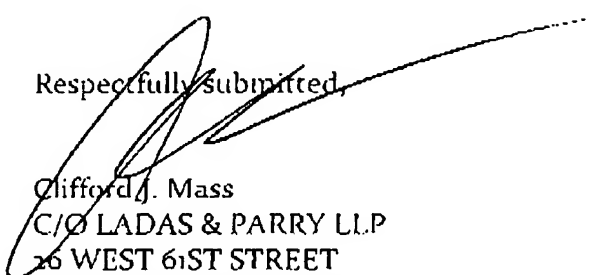
REMARKS

The courtesy of Examiner Amy Sterling in discussing this application with Applicant's representative John Richards on or about 4 January 2011 is gratefully acknowledged. The Examiner suggested that prosecution of the application might be advanced if the claims were limited to a specific embodiment of the claimed attenuation device. In accordance with this suggestion, Applicants have now limited the claims to an attenuation device having a surface of revolution which is circular (see, e.g., Figs. 2-7) and comprising an elastomeric material within the limits defined by the recited slots (see, e.g., specification at page 7, lines 19-25). The amendment is made without prejudice to Applicant's right to seek protection of generic claims or claims directed to other embodiments in a continuing application.

The claims as amended are respectfully believed to be patentable for the reasons advanced by Applicant in submissions filed previously (see, e.g., Amendment of 2 March 2010, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference).

An early and favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is again respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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